Applicant hereby petitions for any extension of time which may be required to maintain the pendency of this case, and any required fee for such extension in excess of the amount paid by check is to be charged to Deposit Account No. 16-2372.

Claims 1-10, 29-32, 35, 39-98, and 103-113 are pending in the application. In the Amendment, claims 11-28, 33-34, 36-38, 99-102, and 113-114 are cancelled without disclaimer of or prejudice to the subject thereof while claims 1, 4, 8, 29, 31, 35, 39, 45, 46, 48, 55, 60, 64, 66, 68, 69. 78, 85, 89, 93-95, 97, 98, and 103 are amended, as discussed in greater detail below.

A clean copy of the claims, without underlines and deletions, is provided in the attached Appendix. It is respectfully submitted that the claim amendments do not add new matter to the application.

Applicant is grateful for the courtesies extended to him and his representative during the Personal Interview conducted on April 7, 2003. The substance of that Interview are reflected in the Examiner Interview Summary Record, which was completed at the conclusion of the Personal Interview, and the Remarks that follow.

The Office Action objects to the specification under 35 U.S.C. §132. In particular, the Preliminary Amendment filed on December 11, 2000, which provided a substitute specification for entry allegedly contains new matter, i.e., "work product summary" (pages 3, 17, and 18) and "parsing of the work order packages into work order summaries and work orders (page 19).

During the Personal Interview, i.e., in the discussions regarding new matter with respect to both 35 U.S.C. §132, presented immediately below, and 35 U.S.C. §112, 1st paragraph, discussed in detail below, Applicant identified support for the terms found in the December 11, 2000 amendment in U.S. Patent No. 6,006,191, the parent to the instant application.

With respect to "work order summary, it will be noted that the term "work order" appears in the '191 patent in the paragraph bridging columns 29 and 30. The discussion is as follows:

> "Another interesting alternative method for operating the RAMIX system according to the present invention is the so-called open market direct bid

method of operation. In an exemplary case, the patient transmits his/her EMR to CHC 200 via comm channel 210 as a <u>work order</u> the patient would like to receive bids on. The diagnostic physicians currently experiencing downtime would then bid against one another for the privilege of performing the reading."

It will be appreciated that the "work order" is equated with "EMR," i.e., Electronic Medical Record. From the discussion found in the '191 patent from column 1, line 42, to column 2, line 3, it will also be appreciated that the EMR consists of two parts, an electronic medical form (EMF) and an electronic medical image (EMI). Thus, the EMR is a multi-part package, i.e., a work order package. Moreover, with respect to the "parsing" objection, discussed in detail immediately below, it is clear that Applicant is merely equating or substituting the terms "work order summary" and" work order" for EMF and EMI. Clarifications in language such as this do not amount to the introduction of new matter into the application. It is respectfully submitted that re-labeling of terms cannot amount to the introduction of new matter.

With respect to the "parsing" objection, it is unclear whether the objection is made regarding the term "parsing," the terms "work order summary" and" work order," or the phrase collectively. In any event, it is respectfully submitted that the entire phrase and its component parts are not new matter with respect to the '191 patent.

More specifically, the term "parsing" is defined as follows:

parse v., parsed, pars·in, pars·es.
    v.tr.
1.   To break (a sentence) down into its component parts of speech with an explanation of the form, function, and syntactical relationship of each part.
2.   To describe (a word) by stating its part of speech, form, and syntactical relationships in a sentence.
    a. To examine closely or subject to detailed analysis, especially by breaking up into components: "What are we missing by parsing the behavior of chimpanzees into the conventional categories recognized largely from our own behavior?" (Stephen Jay Gould).
    b. To make sense of; comprehend: I simply couldn't parse what you just said.
3.   *Computer Science. To analyze or separate (input, for example) into more easily processed components.*

See http://www.atomica.com

This is consistent with the discussion found in the '191 patent at column 24, lines 44-64. In particular, the '191 patent clearly states that:

> "With this information at their disposal, the patient/gatekeeper advantageously can select an appropriate one of the PBQs reflective of the patient's needs and resources. When the patient's EMR containing a PBQ designation is transmitted to CHC 200, the operating system software of the CHC 200 automatically reads the appropriate field and assigns the patient's EMR to an appropriate location in the selected PBQ."

Thus, the clearing house computer (CHC 200) explicitly performs a parsing function.

Moreover, as also discussed in the '191 patent, the various parts of the EMR are transmitted separately. For example, column 27, lines 7-30, clearly state that "the CHC 200 transmits the EMR including patient information from the EMF, which preferably is displayed in area 412 on the screen of computer 410, and a preview image corresponding to either the sole or first digitized diagnostic image in the patient's EMI."

As mentioned above, the EMR defined as having at least two parts, an EMF and an EMI. Thus, the CHC 200 parses the EMR (the work order package) into an EMF (a work order summary) and an EMI (a work order).

For all the reasons set forth above, Applicant submitted that the substitute specification does not contain prohibited new matter. The Examiner agreed to withdraw the 35 U.S.C. §132 objection to the substitute specification at the conclusion of the Personal Interview.

The Office Action also rejects claims 35, 46, 48, 49, 50, 69, and 78 under 35 U.S.C. §112, 2nd paragraph as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which the Applicant regards as the invention. Claims 1-10, 29-32, 35, 39-98, and 103-113 have been carefully reviewed and claims 1, 4, 8, 29, 31, 35, 39, 45, 46, 48, 55, 60, 64, 66, 68, 69. 78, 85, 89, 93-95, 97, 98, and 103 are amended for clarity. It is respectfully submitted that claims 1-10, 29-32, 35, 39-98, and

103-113, as amended, are both definite and entirely proper under 35 U.S.C. '112, since those of ordinary skill in the art can easily ascertain the metes and bounds of the present invention from the pending claims.

First, it is respectfully submitted that Claims 35, 48, and 78 are amended at the points indicated in the Office Action.

Second, with respect to claims 46, 49, 50, and 69, it is submitted that the rejection is not cogent on several levels, not the least of which being that the phrases become nonsensical if it is assumed that articles such as "the" can only be employed in signally antecedent basis. Such is not the case here.

With respect to claims 46, 49, 50, and 69, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider his objection to the phrases "the time derivative of the median" recited in claim 46, "the total number of users" recited in claim 49, "the total number of transactions" recited in claim 50, and "the time derivative of the mean" as recited in claim 69, because Applicant's use of these phrases is both grammatically and semantically correct. It will be appreciated that there is no possessive case for inanimate nouns in the English language. Appellant submits that, in English, the definite article "the" has uses other than referring to antecedents, the online version of the **Merriam-Webster's College Dictionary** (copy attached) being offered as evidence thereof. See definition **2.b (1)**, which indicates that the word "the" can be " used as a function word before a noun to limit its application to that specified by a succeeding element in the sentence," i.e., to denote that the "total number" references the phrase that follows, e.g., "of users" in claim 49. Since Appellant has formulated the claim language in accordance with common and approved English usage, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and overturn the 35 U.S.C. § 112, 2nd paragraph rejection of claims 46, 49, 50, and 69.

Moreover, definition **1.b**, i.e., a function word to indicate that a following noun or noun equivalent is a unique or a particular member of its class, is equally appropriate

with respect to claims 46, 49, 50, and 69. For example, there is only one "total number of users." Likewise, there is one "total number of transactions" and one "first derivative of the mean." In fact, Applicant submits that it would be grammatically incorrect to refer to "a total number of users" since the total number of users is unique.

In short, claims 1-10, 29-32, 35, 39-98, and 103-113 have been carefully reviewed. It is respectfully submitted that claims 1-10, 29-32, 35, 39-98, and 103-113, as amended, are both definite and entirely proper under 35 U.S.C. §112, since those of ordinary skill in the art can easily ascertain the metes and bounds of the present invention from the pending claims. The first sentence of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. §112 requires only that claims "set out and circumscribe a particular area with a reasonable degree of precision and particularity." In the absence of evidence to the contrary, what the claim defines is what the Appellant regards as his invention. If those skilled in the art can tell whether any particular embodiment is within the scope of a claim, the claim fulfills its purpose as a definition. See In re Miller, 169 U.S.P.Q. 597 (CCPA 1971). It is respectfully submitted that those skilled in the art would have no trouble determining the metes and bounds of the invention from the pending claims.

The Office Action then rejects claims 29-32, 35, 45-47, 55, 60, 64-69, 77, 78, 85, 89, and 93-98 under 35 U.S.C. §112, 1st paragraph, as containing subject matter which was not described in such a way as to reasonably convey to one of ordinary skill in the art that the inventor, at the time that the invention was made, had possession of the claimed invention, i.e., the claims fail as to written description. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Due to the number of repetitive rejections, Applicant will address these rejections in tabular form immediately below.

Term	Rejected Claims	Support Found in U.S. Patent No. 6,006,191
Time derivative	46, 69	Claim 20, velocity, i.e., the time derivative of position. Having said that, Applicant amends these claims
Arrow	69	Using the term "arrow" is totally acceptable here since velocity is a vector, i.e., magnitude and direction.
Work order summary	29, 35	Addressed above[1]
Parsing	29	Addressed above
Bar graph	45, 65, 66, 68, 94, 95	Support for this language is found in Tables 1 and 2. Having said that, Applicant amends the language in the pending claims to either reflect that the information is conveyed in tabular form or to eliminate references to bar graphs.
Arithmetic Calculations, Mean of the bar graph, time derivative of the mean	77, 78, 97, 98	Column 24, lines 44-64. For example, summing the number of patients bidding $100 for a reading is an arithmetic calculation. See also column 10, line 47 of the '191 patent regarding "rate of change of position relative to the plurality of images," i.e., mean.

"Statistical information" is also discussed at column 24, lines 27– 30 in the '191 patent. When added to the above statement can be read as "statistical measures of the plurality of offers as a whole," i.e., the mean and the time velocity of the mean would fall into this category. |

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[1] The Office Action indicated that claims 29 and 35, as well as any respective dependent claims, were not addressed in the Substantive rejections (addressed below). The withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. §132 objection renders the rejections of claims 29 and 35 moot.

Since the '191 patent clearly provides adequate support for allowing one of ordinary skill in the art to reasonably conclude that the Applicant had possession of the invention as presently claimed at least as early as May 12, 1997, the filing date of the '191 patent, the Examiner is respectfully submitted to reconsider and withdraw the 35 U.S.C. §112, 1st paragraph rejection of claims 29-32, 35, 45-47, 55, 60, 64-69, 77, 78, 85, 89, and 93-98.

The Office Action also rejects claims 4-8 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Inga et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,321,520). The '520 patent discloses a medical record storage system employed in, for example. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

In the Amendment, claim 4 was amended to recite features of the invention previously disclosed but unclaimed. In particular, claim 4 now recites that the first facility comprises "first means receiving an indicia from each of the respective N patients for generating a listing of the stored digital medical images in an order negotiated by all of the N patients." Claim 4 goes on to recite "a second facility remote from the first facility, but in electronic communication therewith, for providing a diagnostic service provider having access to the electronic digital medical image database with the listing of the stored digital medical images negotiated by all of the N patients." Thus, claim 4 recites features of the invention neither disclosed nor suggested by the '520 patent. Therefore, since the '520 patent does not disclose each and every feature of the claim arranged as in the claim, the '520 patent cannot anticipate amended claim 4. Claims 5-8, depending from claim 4, distinguish even further over the '520 patent and, thus, are allowable over this reference.

The Office Action then rejects claims 1, 3, 9, 10, 39-44, 48-54, 56-58, 61-63, 70-76, 79-84, 86-87, 90-92, 103-104, 106-111 and 113 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e)[2] as being

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[2] Applicant will treat the rejection as if the Office Action had rejected these claims under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) instead of 35 U.S.C. §102(e).

anticipated by Silverman et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,135,501). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The '501 patent teaches a system in which a computer matches buy and sell orders for currency based on messages generated by terminals attached to the system, i.e., "buy and sell orders" are submitted for consideration to the order matching function. See column 14, line 57, through column 15, line 28, of the '501 patent. In other words, it is the computer system in the '501 patent, not the traders, that elects trading partners and then executes the trade. See Fig. 17, Note 2, wherein "entries are submitted to the matching function." In addition, the '501 patent determine which trades will be executed based on both price and the system's own criteria. That is, the computer system in the '501 organizes the market according to the system operator's criteria, i.e., by imposing itself on the buyers and sellers. The buyers and sellers do not self-organize the market. All the buyers and sellers can do is submit buy and sell orders, respectively. They can neither elect who they will trade with, nor execute the trade themselves. Moreover, the system does not depict the entire market. The system also selectively displays information as determined by the system operator. -

It is respectfully submitted that the distinction between the claimed invention and the '501 patent is best understood if one considers the information displayed by both systems as telephone numbers. See column15, lines 22 – 35, and column 22, lines 23 – 25 of the '191 patent. In the system disclosed by the '501 patent, people who are willing to place calls and people who are willing to receive calls post their phone numbers on the system. Subsequently, the central system 20, using its own criteria, determines which callers and callees to connect to one another. In contrast, in the claimed invention, the first users indicate that they want to talk to someone in a particular group of second users and one member of second user group selects the person in first user group to talk with, i.e., the call is executed by a caller-callee pair themselves, not by a matching function on a computer system operated by a third party or the third party

itself. In other words. the claimed invention facilitates the interaction; it does not complete the transaction like the '501 patent does. In summary, '501 is an automated matching system run by a computer, whereas the current invention is an enabler of a self-organizing market place run by the buyers and sellers themselves.

With respect to claim 1, it is respectfully submitted that the '501 patent does not disclose or suggest the express limitation "wherein one of said second users elects to receive one of said digital information blocks responsive to said indicia of a respective digital information block." In fact, the system disclosed by the '501 patent is simply incapable of providing this limitation.

Moreover, it is respectfully submitted that the '501 patent does not disclose or even suggest a graphic user interface (GUI), as commonly recited in many of the independent claims, e.g., claims 39 and 70. A GUI denotes an interface for issuing commands to a computer utilizing a pointing device, such as a mouse, that manipulates and activates graphical images on a monitor. See also the discussion in the '191 patent at column 24, lines 7-11, where the GUI is described as a computer directory, i.e., an interface for issuing commands. The '501 patent does not disclose such an interface. Rather, the '501 patent describes a screen with information on it. There is no indication that the screen is interactive. For example, there is no indication that the symbols on the screen could be computer links.

While the Examiner may refer to the discussion in '501 at column 7, lines 2-4, as teaching the recited GUI, such is not the case. For example, claim 39 clearly described the GUI as "representing a self-organizing marketplace for exchange of a selected type of one of goods and services, comprising digital information blocks generated by a plurality of respective users." The computer 20 disclosed by the '501 patent clearly does not represent a self-organizing marketplace of any type; the computer system in the '501 patent is used to organize a market ordered in accordance with rules established by the computer system operator. Moreover, the presentation depicted in Fig. 17 of the

'501 patent is not generated and organized by the users, since the screen generated by computer 20 of the '501 patent is a compilation based on the various messages generated by the remote terminal operators, who are not the users recited in claim 39. In short, the screen in Fig. 17 does not represent the self-organizing market; the screen represents a summary of a selected range of a centrally organized market. Similar arguments are equally applicable with respect to independent claim 70.

Moreover, the '501 patent does not disclose or even suggest that:

1.   "one of said second users elects to receive a selected one of said digital information blocks responsive to said indicia of a respective digital information block," as recited in claim 1;

2.   The "self-organizing marketplace" and "all of the digital information blocks are freely selectable by at least one of the respective users," as recited in claim 39.

3.   The "self-organizing marketplace" and "whereby the GUI displays the graphic indicators for all offers to buy and sell to thereby permit all of the users to visualize the marketplace," as recited in claim 70.

4.   The "each of said digital information blocks is receivable by at least one of a plurality of third users," as recited in claim 103.

For all of the reasons set forth above, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the 35 U.S.C. §102(e) rejection of claims 1, 39, 70 and 103. The claims depending respectively from claims 1, 39, 70, and 103 are allowable over the '501 patent on identical reasoning.

The Office Action then rejects Claims 2, 105, and 112 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over the '501 patent. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicant submits that the relevance of the printed matter rule of thumb put forth in the cited rationale for the rejection appears not to apply. Independent claim 1 has nothing to do with printed matter of any kind; claim 1 recites a buffer memory storing

digital information blocks that are stored and accessed in a particular and unique fashion. The recitation in claim 2 further refines the type of digital information block. Irrespective of the underlying content of the digital information block, the buffer memory always stores and accesses these digital information blocks in the particular and unique fashion recited in claim 1. Thus, claim 2 is allowable for all the reasons given with respect to claim 1. Claim 105 is allowable for all of the reasons given with respect to claim 2.

With respect to claim 112, it is respectfully submitted that the '501 patent does not teach the GUI recited in claim 107, as discussed in detail above. Thus, the '501 patent cannot obviate the invention of claim 107. Claim 112 further distinguishes over the invention recited in claim 107 and, thus, further distinguishes over the prior art of record.

For all of the reasons set forth above, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the 35 U.S.C. §103(a) rejection of claims 2, 105, and 112.

Finally, the Office Action rejects claims 59 and 88 as being unpatentable over the '501 patent in view of Patterson et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,915,245). The '245 patent is cited as teaching file names with tradeable instruments. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

As discussed above, independent claims 39 and 70 recite a GUI. The '501 patent does not teach a GUI representing a self-organizing marketplace for exchange of a selected type of one of goods and services. Moreover, the '245 patent is not cited as teaching a GUI representing a self-organizing marketplace for exchange of a selected type of one of goods and services. Since the applied references each fail to teach a GUI representing a self-organizing marketplace for exchange of a selected type of one of goods and services, no possible combination of these references could possibly teach a GUI. Thus, claims 39 and 70 are allowable over the combination of the '501 patent and the '245 patent, in any combination. That being the case, claim 59, depending from

independent claim 39, and claim 88, depending from independent claim 70, are allowable for all of the reasons given with respect to claims 39 and 70.

Moreover, one of ordinary skill in the art would not have been motivated to combine the teachings of the '501 patent with those of the '245 patent, since the references are in conflict, i.e., teach away from one another. As discussed above, the '501 patent teaches a computer based order matching system. In contrast, the '245 patent teach a system including a central terminal wirelessly connected to a number of pen-based computers for facilitating floor orders on the floor of an exchange such as the New York Stock Exchange, i.e., an exchange where various human beings keep the "book" (buy and sell orders).

It is well settled that 35 U.S.C. §103 authorizes a rejection where to meet the claim, it is necessary to modify a single reference or to combine it with one or more other references. After indicating that the rejection is under 35 U.S.C. 103, the examiner should set forth in the Office action (1) the relevant teachings of the prior art relied upon, preferably with reference to the relevant column or page number(s) and line number(s) where appropriate, (2) the difference or differences in the claim over the applied reference(s), (3) the proposed modification of the applied reference(s) necessary to arrive at the claimed subject matter, and (4) an explanation why such proposed modification would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made. See M.P.E.P. '706.02(j).

With respect to motivation (Item (4)), it is respectfully submitted that the Office Action has not set forth cogent reasoning as to why one of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to employ the filenames taught by the '245 patent, while discarding all other teachings from the '245 patent, and then combining the extracted feature with a system that is incapable of employing filenames in this manner, i.e., the '501 patent does not employ filenames or the like because the selected portion of the book presented in Fig. 17 is a compilation of orders. One of ordinary skill in the art
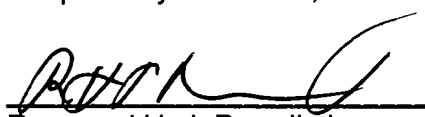
would appreciate that you could not consolidate or aggregate orders for display if the information is keyed to file names.

Applicant submits that the test for obviousness is what the combined teachings of the references would have suggested to one of ordinary skill in the art, and all teachings in the prior art must be considered to the extent that they are in analogous arts. Where the teachings of two or more prior art references conflict, the Examiner must weigh the power of each reference to suggest solutions to one of ordinary skill in the art, considering the degree to which one reference might accurately discredit another. See M.P.E.P. §2143, citing In re Young, 18 U.S.P.Q.2d 1089 (Fed. Cir. 1991). Since the Office Action does not recognize the conflict between the two references, much less resolve the conflict, it is respectfully submitted that the Office Action has not set forth a "prima facie" case of obviousness with respect to claims 39 and 70. Claims 59 and 88, depending respectively from claims 39 and 70, are allowable for all of the reasons given with respect to claims 39 and 70.

It is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance, and such action is hereby solicited. However, if it is deemed that there still remain additional issues to be resolved, the Examiner is encouraged to call the Applicant's undersigned representative before taking any further formal action in this case.

Respectfully submitted,

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Attachments:
  1. Appendix with Clean Claims
  2. Dictionary Definitions

Date: April 30, 2003

APPENDIX

1. A buffer memory for storing a plurality of digital information blocks generated by a plurality of respective first users in an order established by said first users, wherein:

each of said digital information blocks is receivable by at least one of a plurality of second users,

each of said digital information blocks includes an indicia of the priority one of said users attaches to an associated one of said digital information blocks, and

one of said second users elects to receive a selected one of said digital information blocks responsive to said indicia of a respective digital information block.

4. A remote access medical image exchange system, comprising:

a first facility for converting a plurality of physical medical images of N patients into corresponding digital medical images and for storing the digital medical images in a remotely accessible data storage device, to thereby provide a remotely accessible electronic digital medical image database comprised of the stored digital medical images corresponding to the N patients, the first facility comprising:

first means receiving an indicia from each of the respective N patients for generating a listing of the stored digital medical images in an order negotiated by all of the N patients; and

a second facility remote from the first facility, but in electronic communication therewith, for providing a diagnostic service provider having access to the electronic digital medical image database with the listing of the stored digital medical images in the order negotiated by all of the N patients,

wherein the system is configured in such a manner as to enable the diagnostic service provider to select one or more of the digital medical images from the database for reading from the listing, at the discretion of the diagnostic service provider.

8. The system as set forth in Claim 4, wherein the first facility further comprises:

second means for scanning the physical medical images and converting the scanned physical medical images into the corresponding digital medical images; and

the data storage device for storing the digital medical images.

29. A system for transmitting, storing, retransmitting and receiving a plurality of work order packages, each containing a work order summary having an indicia of the priority attached to one of the work order packages by a respective requester and a work order, the system comprising:

a first computer system including:

- a first memory storing a first software module containing first operating instructions readable by the first computer system;

- an input device for generating at least one of the work order packages and for changing one of the indicia in the respective one of the work order packages generated by the respective requester; and

- a first display for monitoring all of the work order packages;

a first communications channel receiving any of the work order packages generated by the first computer system;

a second computer system receiving the at least one of the work order packages from the first communications channel and parsing received work order packages into their respective work order summaries and work orders, the second computer system including:

- a second memory storing a second software module containing second operating instructions readable by the second computer system;

- a first storage memory for storing the work order summaries linked to the respective work orders in a predetermined order based on the indicia in

the respective work order packages; and

- a second storage memory for storing the respective work orders;

a second communications channel for receiving the respective work order summaries and a selected one of the work orders from the summary storage memory and the bulk storage memory, respectively; and

a third computer system for selecting the selected one of the respective work orders based on the work order summaries and for receiving the selected one of the work orders, the third computer comprising:

- a third memory storing a third software module containing third operation instructions readable by the third computer; and

- a second display for displaying any of the work order summaries and the selected one of the work orders;

wherein the second computer system, under control of the second operating instructions, reorders all of the stored work order summaries responsive to any change in the indicia of the work order packages generated by the respective requester.

31. The system as recited in claim 29, wherein the third computer system comprises a plurality of third computers, and wherein the first storage memory comprises a first memory queue accessible by all of the third computers and a plurality of second memory queues, each of the second memory queues being accessible by only a selected one of the third computers.

35. A remote access system for purchasing services, comprising:

a first facility for storing work order packages, each work order package generated by a respective originator and including a work order and an associated work order summary in a remotely accessible data storage device, to thereby provide a remotely accessible work order database comprised of the stored work order packages;

a plurality of second facilities remote from the first facility, but in electronic communication therewith, for providing a pool of participating service providers with access to the work order database; and

means for facilitating interactive bidding by the originators of the work order packages and service providers regarding fees to be charged by the participating service providers for the services requested in the work order packages,

whereby the system functions as an open electronic marketplace for the distribution of services to the originators, and

wherein the system is configured in such a manner as to enable any one or more of the service providers to select and extract one or more of the work orders from the work order database in accordance with selection criteria established by the service providers and the work order package originators.

39. A graphic user interface (GUI) instantiated by computer software, the GUI representing a self-organizing marketplace for exchange of a selected type of one of goods and services, comprising digital information blocks generated by a plurality of respective users, wherein:

the digital information blocks are disposed in an order established by all of the users;

each of the digital information blocks is represented in the GUI by graphic indicators;

each of the digital information blocks includes an indicia of priority that one of the users attaches to an associated one of the digital information blocks; and

all of the digital information blocks are freely selectable by at least one of the respective users.

45. The GUI as recited in Claim 44, wherein:

the at least one of the statistical measures is represented graphically in a table; and

the median of the at least one statistical measures is graphically represented on the table as a line.

46. The GUI as recited in Claim 45, wherein the rate of change of the median is graphically represented as an arrow attached to the line representing the mean.

48. The GUI as recited in Claim 43, wherein user-specific statistical measures corresponding to the indicia of priority established by a respective one of the users is presented by the GUI for only that respective one of the users.

55. The GUI as recited in Claim 39, wherein the graphic indicators are computer links to a sequence of computer instructions.

60. The GUI as recited in Claim 39, wherein the graphic indicators are links to the associated digital information blocks.

64. The GUI as recited in Claim 39, wherein the graphic indicators are computer links to a buffer memory containing the associated digital information block.

66. The GUI as recited in Claim 65, wherein statistical quantities associated with all of the bars are displayed for all users on the GUI.

68. The GUI as recited in Claim 67, wherein the at least one of the statistical measures is the mean of all bars, which mean is represented graphically as a line.

69. The GUI as recited in Claim 68, wherein the rate of change of the mean of all bars is graphically represented as an arrow attached to the line representing the mean.

78. The GUI as recited in Claim 77, wherein a selected one of the arithmetic calculations is presented only to a corresponding one of the first and second users.

85. The GUI as recited in Claim 70, wherein the graphic indicators are computer links to a sequence of computer instructions.

89. The GUI as recited in Claim 70, wherein the graphic indicators are links to the associated digital information blocks.

93. The GUI as recited in Claim 70, wherein the graphic indicators are computer links to a buffer memory containing the associated digital information block.

94. The GUI as recited in Claim 70, wherein the graphic indicators are segments of a bar, each segment being directly associated with a respective digital information block.

95. The GUI as recited in Claim 94, wherein statistical quantities associated with at least one of the segments of the bar are displayed for all users on the GUI.

97. The GUI as recited in Claim 96, wherein the at least one of the statistical measures is the mean of all of the segments, which mean is represented graphically on the GUI as a line.

98. The GUI as recited in Claim 97, wherein the rate of change of the mean of all of the segments is graphically represented on the GUI as an arrow attached to the line representing the mean of all of the segments.

103. A buffer memory operated by a first user for storing a plurality of links to respective digital information blocks generated by a plurality of respective second users in an order freely established by the second users, wherein:

each of said digital information blocks is receivable by at least one of a plurality of third users;

each of the links includes an indicia of the priority a respective one of the second users attaches to an associated one of said digital information blocks; and

each of the third users is presented with a link list ordered responsive the indicia associated with the links stored in the buffer memory.
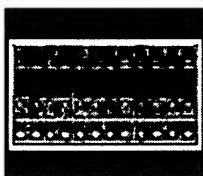
Merriam-Webster DICTIONARY

| Atlas | Reverse Dictionary | Rhyming Dictionary |
| Dictionary | Thesaurus | Unabridged Dictionary |
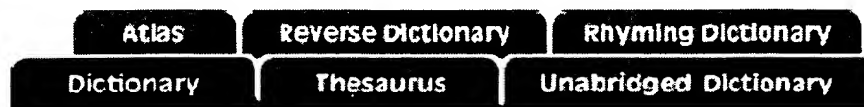
17 entries found for the. The first 10 are listed below.
To select an entry, click on it. For more results, click here.

```
the[1,definite article]    Go
the[2,adverb]
the[3,preposition]
Bronx
Delta, The
Gambia
```

Main Entry: ¹the
Pronunciation: *before consonants usually* [th]&, *before vowels usually* [th]E, *esp Southern before vowels also* [th]&; *for emphasis before titles and names or to suggest uniqueness often* ' [th]E
Function: *definite article*
Etymology: Middle English, from Old English *thE*, masc. demonstrative pronoun & definite article, alteration (influenced by oblique cases -- as *thæs,* genitive -- & neuter, *thæt*) of *sE;* akin to Greek *ho,* masculine demonstrative pronoun & definite article – more at THAT
Date: before 12th century
1 a -- used as a function word to indicate that a following noun or noun equivalent is definite or has been previously specified by context or by circumstance <put *the* cat out> **b** -- used as a function word to indicate that a following noun or noun equivalent is a unique or a particular member of its class <*the* President> <*the* Lord> **c** -- used as a function word before nouns that designate natural phenomena or points of the compass <*the* night is cold> **d** -- used as a function word before a noun denoting time to indicate reference to what is present or immediate or is under consideration <in *the* future> **e** -- used as a function word before names of some parts of the body or of the clothing as an equivalent of a possessive adjective <how's *the* arm today> **f** -- used as a function word before the name of a branch of human endeavor or proficiency <*the* law> **g** -- used as a function word in prepositional phrases to indicate that the noun in the phrase serves as a basis for computation <sold by *the* dozen> **h** – used as a function word
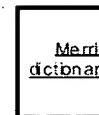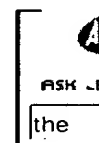
before a proper name (as of a ship or a well-known building) <*the* Mayflower> **i** -- used as a function word before the plural form of a numeral that is a multiple of ten to denote a particular decade of a century or of a person's life <life in *the* twenties> **j** -- used as a function word before the name of a commodity or any familiar appurtenance of daily life to indicate reference to the individual thing, part, or supply thought of as at hand <talked on *the* telephone> **k** -- used as a function word to designate one of a class as the best, most typical, best known, or most worth singling out <this is *the* life> <*the* Pill> -- sometimes used before a personal name to denote the most prominent bearer of that name
2 a (1) -- used as a function word with a noun modified by an adjective or by an attributive noun to limit the application of the modified noun to that specified by the adjective or by the attributive noun <*the* right answer> <Peter *the* Great> (2) -- used as a function word before an absolute adjective or an ordinal number <nothing but *the* best> <due on *the* first> **b** (1) -- used as a function word before a noun to limit its application to that specified by a succeeding element in the sentence <*the* poet Wordsworth> <*the* days of our youth> <didn't have *the* time to write> (2) -- used as a function word after a person's name to indicate a characteristic trait or notorious activity specified by the succeeding noun <Jack *the* Ripper>
3 a -- used as a function word before a singular noun to indicate that the noun is to be understood generically <*the* dog is a domestic animal> **b** -- used as a function word before a singular substantivized adjective to indicate an abstract idea <an essay on *the* sublime>
4 -- used as a function word before a noun or a substantivized adjective to indicate reference to a group as a whole <*the* elite>